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HEADLINE: Six Lose Jobs in Frost Layoff

BYLINE: Dave Backmann

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BODY:

The Frost Co. has permanently laid off six employees, including some supervisors but mostly clerical staff, in a corporate restructuring move.

John Frost Jr., president and chief executive officer, said Wednesday the layoffs made last week are part of a strategic plan to make the company stronger.

He said some of the employees had more than 20 years' service.

"It's not a fun thing to do" Frost said. "But we still have 110 people that are here, working full-time.

"I'm glad I can say that, and don't have to announce that we're laying off 116 people.

"I guess they call this a right-sizing in today's terms. In today's market we have to be lean and mean."

Three years ago the privately held business at 6523 14th Ave. employed 140 full-time workers.

"We have gotten down to the employment level where we are mostly through attrition," Frost said. "But this one wasn't through attrition. I have to say, too, that our employees are more productive now than they were three years ago."

The Frost Co. manufactures ladders and handrails for swimming pools along with tubular brass plumbing components. The company's markets are about equally divided between those two areas.

None of the company's unionized work force was involved in the layoffs.

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